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BLOCKADE--RUNNING

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# **BLOCKADE--RUNNING**

BY

## **State of North Carolina,**

### **1863--'64.**

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**WILLIAM H. OLIVER,**  
**NEWBERN, N. C.**



## BLOCKADE-RUNNING

By the State of North Carolina,  
1863-'64.

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NEWBERN, N. C., September 1st, 1895.

JAMES SPRUNT, Esq.:—

Early in 1863 I was commissioned by Gov. Z. B. Vance, an agent for the State of North Carolina to purchase Cotton for Blockade-running purposes. The instruction which I received through Major John Devereux, Quarter Master Gen. for N. C., was to buy every bale of Cotton that I could purchase, and to pay a stipulated price of twenty cents per pound. I went at once to the sections nearest the Federal lines so as to get all the Cotton out of the reach of the Federal troops if a raid should be made by them.

In a short time I purchased about seven thousand bales and paid for the same about Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars. On account of the scarcity of Rail Road accommodation it was a tedious matter to get the Cotton moved.

Arrangements had been made to ship the Cotton as fast as possible by running it through the blockade at Wilmington, N. C. A large part of the Cotton was taken to Graham, N. C., it being unsafe to leave it in the eastern part of the State.

Mr. John White of Warrenton, N. C. was appointed agent for the sale of it in England. Mr. White sailed from Charleston, S. C. on the steamer Leopard on the 15th day of November 1862. A number of cargoes were shipped to him and from a report of his to Gov. Vance, it will be seen that he purchased with the proceeds of Cotton and N. C. Cotton Bonds—

The steamship Lord Clyde afterwards known as the Advance, at a cost of £35.000 \$175.000.

150.115 yards Grey Cloth 6-4 wide,  
11.023 " " " 3-4 "  
28.582 " " Flannel 6-4 "  
83.173 " " " 3-4 "  
2.978 " Brown Canvass-Padding.  
25.887 pair Grey Blankets.  
37.092 " Woolen Socks.  
26.096 " Army Shoes.  
.530 " Cavalry Boots.  
1.956 Angola Shirts.  
7.872 yards Grey Flannel Shirts.  
1.006 Cloth Overcoats.  
1.002 " Jackets.  
1.010 pairs cloth Trousers.  
Quantity of Sole and Harness Leather.  
20,000 pair Army Shoes.  
10,000 " Grey Blankets.  
1,920 " Flannel Shirts.  
5,800 yards Army Cloth 6-4.  
10,000 " " "  
7,000 pairs Cotton and Wool Cards.  
5 machines for making Cotton Cards with wire sufficient to keep them running 12 months.

A large quantity of the Cotton was delivered by order of Gov. Vance to Messrs John Newlan & Sons, at Saxapahawee Factory to be manufactured into Cloth and Yarn. The cloth was delivered to the Quarter Master for the use of the army and the yarn was exchanged in Virginia for leather, which was made into shoes. The card machines were put up in Mr. William H. Willard's Factory, and a large number of pairs of cards were made and distributed by me all over the State.

At the close of the war about 200 bales of the Cotton was at Graham, N. C. and it was taken by Col. D. Heaton of the U. S. Treasury Department.

Very Respectfully,

WILLIAM H. OLIVER.

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A. H.



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